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OCI No. 1782/71

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
22 July 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DEVELOPMENTS IN SUDAN

(As of 1100 EDT)

1. A BOAC VC-10 en route to Khartoum from London was ordered to land in Benghazi, Libya, this morning. Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council members BaBakr al-Nur Uthman and Faruq Hamdallah, who were aboard the aircraft, were removed by Libyan authorities.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Libyan

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aircraft had also threatened to fire on the plane. BOAC spokesman said that after the plane landed, Libyan authorities threatened to blow it up unless the two Sudanese got off.

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2. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Libyan, Egyptian, and Syrian embassies there have been surrounded by Sudanese armored units. The Sudan Radio claims the action was taken to "protect members and nationals of the three republics." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Sudanese tanks at Jabal Awliya have surrounded the Egyptian Military Academy there, which was moved to the Sudan following Israeli deep penetration raids into Egypt in 1970.

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3. An Iraqi military aircraft, flying from Baghdad to Khartoum this morning with a delegation of political and military representatives, crashed in Saudi Arabia after Sudanese authorities had

State Dept. review  
completed

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denied it permission to land. The Iraqis have announced the names of only three of those killed in the crash, presumably the highest ranking. One was a member of the Baath Party national command and, although a long-standing party member, was of no particular importance; the other two were of even less significance. The Iraqi announcement of the crash contained no implication of blame for the Sudanese regime. A possible explanation for the Sudanese order turning back the Iraqi aircraft could be the coincidence of its scheduled arrival in Khartoum with that of the BOAC plane bearing the two RCC members from London. At the time the Iraqi plane was ordered away, the BOAC liner was still expected in Khartoum.

4. The Sudanese Communist Party's secretary general--Abd al-Khaliq Mahjoub--is reported to be working behind the scenes to staff the new government with Communists. He had been given asylum in the Bulgarian Embassy in Khartoum after escaping from detention by the Numayri regime in June.

5. Meanwhile, in an unrelated incident, the US political officer in Benghazi was summoned this morning by Major Mustafa Kharubi, the military governor of Cyrenaica who is also the third-ranking member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). He complained that "American naval aircraft" had entered Libyan airspace without permission on 19, 20, and 21 July. Although he had turned down recommendations that the planes to be fired upon on those days, Jallud said he has now issued orders to do so and asked that any US plane flights in the area be halted.

#### LATE ITEM

6. The US Interests Section reports that the situation in Khartoum is deteriorating, and that small-arms as well as tank firing started at approximately 1000 EDT. Tanks were observed moving in the direction of Khartoum University and were firing into the Presidential Palace. Fighting was also reported across the river in Omdurman. The Sudanese coup spokesman, Major Atta, speaking over the state radio, announced that there had been foreign intervention in the revolution and called upon the Sudanese masses to come to its defense.

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OCI No. 1779/71

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
19 July 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DEVELOPMENTS IN SUDAN

(As of 1630 EDT)

1. A spokesman for a group of Sudanese military officers announced over Omdurman radio at 1525 EDT that the "dictatorial regime" of President Jaffar al-Numayri had been overthrown and that the coup leaders were prepared to cooperate with "all democratic and nationalist elements" in creating a new government.

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the Presidential Palace was surrounded by tanks. Travel from airports has been halted, as have telecommunications and traffic between the capital and other areas.

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2.

the coup leaders as Major Hashim al-Atta, a former member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC); Brigadier Uthman Sharaf, commander of the Republican Guard; and Colonel Abd-al-Munim Ahmad, commander of the 3rd Armored Regiment.

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3. The spokesman and apparent head of the Sudanese coup group is Major Hashim Mohamed al-Atta, former assistant prime minister and minister for agriculture and animal resources. As of late December 1970, al-Atta was residing in Omdurman under continual government scrutiny after being removed from the RCC in November 1970 along with two other cabinet members and officials of the Sudan Communist Party.

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4. Al-Atta has been described as the most intelligent and capable member of the RCC, and at one time was considered a strong supporter of al-Numayri. Despite his record as an organizer for the Sudan Communist Party within the army, he was chosen for the cabinet posts after an impressive military career that included service as deputy military attache in Bonn and training assignments in the United Kingdom and a US military center in Okinawa.

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